(b) Narcotic drugs have been seized from 79 packets at the Foreign Post Office. Besides two cases were detected in Courier packets at IGI airport, New Delhi. The details of seizure are as follows:—

Description of drug	Quantity seized (in kg.) 1996-97	1997-98(till 30-7-97)
(i) Hashish	54.753	—
(ii) Heroin	0.154	16.898
iii) Others	0.153	0.190

(c) and (d) Available reports do not suggest large scale smuggling of narcotic drugs through parcels. Intelligence & enforcement agencies are on high alert to prevent the menace of drug smuggling. Specific measures taken include targetting of intelligence, deployment of trained sniffer dogs at the airports and air cargo complexes; close liaison with foreign drug law enforcement agencies.

Setting up of a DD Centre at Melghat — Maharashtra

2286. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) in view of more than 4500 deaths of tribal children in the Melghat Forest area of the Amravati district of Maharashtra, whether Government will consider setting up Doordarshan Centre and other facilities so that it can be used for preventing such calamity;

(b) if so, what are the Government's plans in this regard; and

(c) when will this be actually implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Four Low Power TV transmitters (LPTs), one each at Amravati, Achalpur, Morshi and Chandur, and a Very Low Power TV transmitter at Chikaldhara are at present, functioning in Amravati district of Maharashtra. Some parts of this district also receive TV service from the High Power TV transmitter functioning at Nagpur. With a view to further strengthen TV service in the district, LPTs are envisaged to be set up at Daryapur and Tiwsa, subject to approval of the schemes by the competent authority. There is, however, no approved scheme at present, to set up a TV transmitter at Melghat. Further expansion of TV service in the hitherto uncovered parts of Maharashtra will depend upon availability of resources, infrastructural facilities required for the purpose and inter-se-priorities.

Loss to Doordarshan due to NDTV

2287. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether NDTV caused loss of Rs. 6.6 crores to Government as per CAG Report 1995-96 if so, the details thereof;

(b) what were the reasons of the aforesaid loss; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to recover the loss and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The Re-

port of Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year ended 31st March, 1996 has brought out in its paragraph No. 11.1 that undue benefit to the producer of the programme "News Tonight" by granting extra Free Commercial Time (FCT) has resulted in a loss of Rs. 6.60 crore to Doordarshan.

The allegations regarding undue favour granted to various programmes including the programme "News Tonight" produced by M/s NDTV have also been examined by the Public Accounts Committee. The Committee in its Report submitted to the Lok Sabha on 22nd April, 1997 have recommended that the matter should be entrusted to an appropriate investigative agency to be decided by the Cabinet Secretary for a thorough enquiry. Necessary action in this direction has been initiated.

Daily, weekly, fortnightly and monthly newspapers and periodicals

2288. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of daily, weekly, fortnightly and monthly newspapers and periodicals being brought out in the Country, Language-wise and their circulation, separately; and

(b) the number of dailies and their circulation brought out three years back?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Language-wise break-up of daily, weekly, fortnightly and monthly newspapers/periodicals, as on 31.2.96, as per the record maintained by the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI), is given in the Statement. However, the circulation figures as on 31.12.96 will become available at the time of submission of their Annual Report 'Press in India' in September '97.

(b) The number of dailies registered with RNI in 1994 was 4148 and their circulation based on the Annual Statements submitted by the publishers was 3,16,14,000.

Statement

Total Number of daily, weekly, fortnightly and monthly Newspaper periodicals (Language & periodicitywise) as on 31-12-1996.

Language	Dailies	Weeklies	Fortnightlies	Monthlies
English	320	751	557	2384
Hindi	2004	7799	2441	2631
Assamese	12	64	37	56
Bengali	90	547	438	620
Gujarati	86	380	135	406
Kannada	268	321	204	481
Kashmiri	..	1	..	..
Konkani	..	3	1	1